

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S. 687**

(Doc. No. 028expe.dag.doc)

TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Rodney Grizzle and Beth Quick		
DATE:	February 1, 2008	SBD:	2008031

AUTHOR:	Senator Martin	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	19-12-110
SUBJECT:	Reliability in Expert Testimony Standards Act		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:
See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:
\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 687 amends the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976 by adding Chapter 12 to Title 19 to create the "Reliability in Expert Testimony Standards Act". This legislation provides circumstances in which a hearing may be requested by the court to determine whether or not a witness qualifies as an expert witness.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Judicial Department

The Department indicates that enactment of this legislation will have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which can be absorbed by the agency at the current level of funding.

Attorney General

The Attorney General's Office reports that this Bill could have an annual impact cost to the General Fund of as much as \$360,000 based on the historical cost of expert witnesses. The Office estimates 500 cases per year would include expert witness testimony with an average witness fee of \$720 per case.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

None.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget